



September 27, 2007

A Message to MDOC Employees from Director Caruso:

Dear Colleagues,

Today is an important day in the Administration's efforts to get the Legislature to pass a comprehensive budget solution that protects health care, education, and public safety. The governor has been clear that this is the final day to reach an agreement that can stop the process of partial state government shutdown, which must be put in motion tomorrow in order to be safely carried out for the new fiscal year that begins on October 1. Unfortunately, as of this writing, the state Legislature has still failed to act on a comprehensive solution.

Tonight at 6:05 p.m., Governor Granholm will speak to the citizens of Michigan about the state budget crisis and the impending shutdown. The speech will be available on network television and numerous radio stations across the state.

The governor has said that even if she is forced to shut down parts of government, she is committed to doing what is necessary to protect the health and safety of Michigan citizens until a budget resolution is reached. In her speech tonight, she will discuss that commitment.

Tomorrow, I will share with all of you the details of our department's shutdown plan. This plan identifies the services that will continue and those that will cease. I know you have many questions about how a shutdown will impact you and your work. We will make every effort to ensure that you have the answers you need should the Legislature fail to act before Monday.

Make no mistake, while we are planning for the possibility of shutdown, the governor - and all of us - remain committed to finding a comprehensive solution, and she will continue working night and day to resolve this budget crisis. Thank you for your continuing hard work in these difficult circumstances.

Look for a special edition **F.Y.I.** tomorrow as soon as further information is available on a shutdown or, if the Legislature acts, on a budget agreement. Please share this information with your coworkers who do not have email or internet access.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Caruso
Director, Michigan Department of Corrections